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AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A system for actively managing ~~an enterprise of~~ configurable components, comprising:

a plurality of ~~at least one~~ individual ~~component~~ components in a managed domain,

each individual component storing a configuration comprising a set of configuration parameters ~~and type definitions~~;

~~at least one document type definition defining a mapping of the configurations between at least two of the individual components, each specifying a configuration parameter with a relationship dependent on at least one other such configuration parameter;~~

~~a management system registering each such individual component, validating the configuration parameters and type definitions based on a master set of configuration parameters and type definitions defined for an enterprise, and enforcing the mappings within the enterprise by dynamically probing the validated configurable parameters for each such individual component~~

a management system server, registering each such individual component, performing dynamic probing operations to identify configuration changes of the individual components that have been made at the individual components, and validating

the identified configuration changes based on information maintained for the management server.

2. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a service interface discovering a change in at least one such configuration parameter through dynamic probing.

3. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 2, further comprising:

a set of core services taking action on the discovered change, comprising at least one of:

a service changing at least one such configuration parameter back to a default or previously validated value;

a service auditing the at least one such configuration parameter;

a service generating an alert about the at least one such configuration parameter; and

a service acquiescing to the discovered change.

4. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 2, further comprising:

a log storing the probed change in the at least one such configuration parameter.

5. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a configuration and validation module performing an impact analysis on the enterprise against at least one such configuration parameter.

6. (Currently amended) A system according to Claim [[1]] 39, wherein the relationship dependency comprises one of one-way, two-way, cyclic, one-to-many, many-to-one, and many-to-many.

7. (Currently amended) A method for actively managing ~~an enterprise of~~ configurable components, comprising:

storing a configuration for a plurality of ~~at least one~~ individual components ~~component~~ in a managed domain, comprising a set of configuration parameters ~~and type definitions~~;

~~defining a mapping of the configurations between at least two of the individual components, each specifying a configuration parameter with a relationship dependent on at least one other such configuration parameter;~~

registering each such individual component;

performing dynamic probing operations to identify configuration changes of the individual components that have been made at the individual components; and

validating the configuration parameters and type definitions based on a master set of configuration parameters and type definitions defined for an enterprise~~; and enforcing the mappings within the enterprise by dynamically probing the validated configurable parameters for each such individual component~~.

8. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 7, further comprising:

discovering a change in at least one such configuration parameter through dynamic probing.

9. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 8, further comprising:

taking action on the discovered change, comprising at least one of:

changing at least one such configuration parameter back to a default or previously validated value;

auditing the at least one such configuration parameter;

generating an alert about the at least one such configuration parameter; and

acquiescing to the discovered change.

10. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 8, further comprising:

logging the probed change in the at least one such configuration parameter.

11. (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 7, further comprising:

performing an impact analysis ~~on the enterprise~~ against at least one such configuration parameter.

12. (Currently amended) A method according to Claim [[7]] 42, wherein the relationship comprises one of one-way, two-way, cyclic, one-to-many, many-to-one, and many-to-many.

13. (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium holding code for performing the method according to Claims 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12.

14. (Currently amended) A system ~~for providing a framework for centrally managing configurations of distributed computing components~~, comprising:

a plurality of individual components each comprising a client module <u>for accessing</u> ~~applying document type definitions storing~~ configuration parameters <u>of configurable individual components</u>;

a management server maintaining a database repository storing master document type definitions and global parameter definitions; and

a management console accessing the database repository and comprising:

at least one service interface retrieving ~~the~~ stored document type definitions for each individual component via the corresponding client module;

a parser extracting the configuration parameters from each retrieved document type definition with the master document type definitions; and

a validator validating each extracted configuration parameter against the validated configuration parameters in the global parameter definitions.

15. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 14, further comprising:

at least one adapter accessing component-specific configuration parameters maintained with at least one such individual component.

16. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 14, further comprising:

at least one component-specific adapter dynamically probing the individual components.

17. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 14, further comprising:

a component parameter relationship dependency tree formed from the extracted configuration parameters; and

an impact analyzer determining propagated changes by traversing the component parameter relationship dependency tree.

18. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 14, further comprising:

a change manager effecting a change to a configuration parameter with at least one such individual component.

19. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 14, further comprising:
a set of doclets formed from the extracted configuration parameters.

20. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 19, wherein the doclets are written in a scripting language comprising the Extensible Markup Language.

21. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 14, further comprising:
validation services, comprising at least one of:
managing at least one such configuration parameter;
advising about at least one such configuration parameter;
alerting about at least one such configuration parameter; and
acquiescing to at least one such configuration parameter.

22. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 14, further comprising:
a browsing service providing a user interface management console.

23. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 14, further comprising:
a management configuration module registering new such individual components.

24. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 14, further comprising:
a management configuration module updating changed such individual components.

25. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 14, wherein the individual components comprise at least one of a Web server, an internet application server and a database server.

26. (Currently amended) A method ~~for providing a framework for centrally managing configurations of distributed computing components~~, comprising:

interfacing to a plurality of individual components that each comprise ~~comprising~~ a client module for accessing ~~applying document type definitions and storing~~ configuration parameters of configurable individual components;

maintaining a database repository storing master document type definitions and global parameter definitions; and

accessing the database repository and actively managing the individual components, comprising:

retrieving the stored document type definitions for each individual component via the corresponding client module;

extracting the configuration parameters from each retrieved document type definition with the master document type definitions; and

validating each extracted configuration parameter against the validated configuration parameters in the global parameter definitions.

27. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 26, further comprising:

accessing component-specific configuration parameters maintained with at least one such individual component.

28. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 26, further comprising:

dynamically probing the individual components.

29. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 26, further comprising:
forming a component parameter relationship dependency tree from the extracted configuration parameters; and
determining propagated changes by traversing the component parameter relationship dependency tree.

30. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 26, further comprising:
effecting a change to a configuration parameter with at least one such individual component.

31. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 26, further comprising:
forming a set of doclets formed the extracted configuration parameters.

32. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 31, wherein the doclets are written in a scripting language comprising the Extensible Markup Language.

33. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 26, further comprising:
providing validation services, comprising at least one of:
managing at least one such configuration parameter;
advising about at least one such configuration parameter;
alerting about at least one such configuration parameter; and
acquiescing to at least one such configuration parameter.

34. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 26, further comprising:
providing a browsing service comprising a user interface management console.

35. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 26, further comprising: registering new such individual components.

36. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 26, further comprising: updating changed such individual components.

37. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 26, wherein the individual components comprise at least one of a Web server, an internet application server and a database server.

38. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium holding code for performing the method according to Claims 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, [[or]] 37, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, or 44.

39. (New) A system according to Claim 1, wherein the information indicates a relationship dependency between a first configuration parameter in the configuration of one individual component and a second configuration parameter in the configuration of another individual component.

40. (New) A system according to Claim 39, wherein the management server validates the configuration based upon the relationship dependency between the first configuration parameter and the second configuration parameter.

41. (New) A system according to Claim 1, wherein the information includes at least one document type definition defining a mapping between the configuration of at least two of the plurality of individual components.

42. (New) A method according to Claim 7, wherein the information indicates a relationship dependency between a first configuration parameter in the configuration of one individual component and a second configuration parameter in the configuration of another individual component.

43. (New) A method according to Claim 42, wherein the management server validates the configuration based upon the relationship dependency between the first configuration parameter and the second configuration parameter.

44. (New) A method according to Claim 7, wherein the information includes at least one document type definition defining a mapping between the configuration of at least two of the plurality of individual components.